

7th Grade ELA Course Syllabus

Minisink Valley Middle School

Miss Gage 2016-2017

Course Description: This course is designed to develop skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Seventh grade students are encouraged to think critically and analytically. Writing is emphasized, and the curriculum integrates grammar and language mechanics into all aspects of the writing process. This course meets the current requirements of the New York State Learning Standards and ELA Common Core Standards.

Methods of Instruction: Students will be engaged in the learning process through:

- Individual tasks and exploration
- Group lectures and discussions
- Collaborative group activities
- Hands-on activities such as projects and portfolio work
- Oral presentations
- Written compositions

Course Theme: The theme of our class this year is the adolescent's experience while facing conflict and adversity.

Course Expectations:

- Attendance is necessary to keep up with this class. If a student misses class time, they are missing the instruction time needed to learn a skill. However, if a student must miss a class, they are required to make up all missed work in a timely manner (1 day for each excused day missed, after which deductions will be made for late work).
- Students are expected to be in their seat when the bell rings. If not, they will be counted tardy. Three tardies will earn a written referral.
- Students are required to participate in class and be respectful to their peers, themselves, and their teacher. Consequences for misconduct may include detention, written assignments, parent notification, or office referral.
- Plagiarism and cheating have no place in a community of learners. Each student is required to put forth their personal best. Everyone has something important and valuable to add to our learning experience. If a student is suspected of plagiarism or cheating, the parents and the principal will be notified and a zero will be issued for that assignment.
- Students are required to keep up with their assigned reading and turn in assignments on time. Students will lose valuable learning experiences if they come to class unprepared.

Major Works and Assignments: We have many enriching activities to look forward to this year. Some of these will require outside preparation and the aid of a parent or guardian to be successful. Here is a list of required major projects that each student will be responsible for.

Quarterly Essays: Each marking period, our class will cover a different form of writing. Each of these writing units consists of a review of the Writing Process and the Six Traits of Good Writing, as well as, class time dedicated to independent student writing and conferencing with the teacher. Writing Units count for 25% of the student's overall grade and should be taken seriously. Although a good amount of the drafting takes place in school, ample time should be spent at home continuing the drafting process, as well as, editing and revising.

Independent Book Reports: Each marking period students are required to choose a novel to read independently. The novels should be grade level appropriate and be of interest to the student. Students are free to read biographies, non-fiction, or fiction. If a student is unsure whether a book meets the criteria for this quarterly assignment he or she should confer with the teacher. Once a student has completed reading the

novel, he or she should fill out the appropriate Book Report Form and turn it in by the assigned due date. Book Report Forms are available in my classroom and on my website (<http://msgageela7.weebly.com>).

Class Novels: We will read and study several novels as a class. Various activities and projects will be tied to the novels. These readings may include but are not restricted to:

- *A Long Walk to Water*
- *Letters From Rifka*
- *Crash*
- *Touching Spirit Bear*

Vocabulary: Each month throughout the school year students will receive a list of ten new vocabulary words. Students are responsible for learning the spelling of each word, the definition, part of speech, and the teacher given synonym and antonym. Throughout the month students will complete various assignments and activities in order to make the words a part of their everyday conversation. At the end of each month students will take a unit test to show mastery of the vocabulary words.

Grammar & Mechanics: Throughout the year our class will review all eight parts of speech. After receiving explicit instruction on the unit's topic, students will complete various activities throughout the month to practice the skills taught. On a monthly basis, students will take unit tests to show mastery of grammar.

Reading Comprehension Practice: Students will receive reading comprehension practice worksheets once a week to complete for homework. Each worksheet will have two to four comprehension questions to coincide with brief reading passages. The purpose of these worksheets is to review character analysis, figurative language, inference skills, and various other important reading skills. RCPs are graded out of 8 points.

Extra Credit/Enrichment Opportunities: Throughout the year students may be presented with optional enriching experiences or assignments. Please know that students may only partake in such activities if they have no more than **two** missing homework assignments. Extra credit does not apply to the student who does not complete regular assignments. Additional assignments and enriching activities are in place to help those students that regularly complete all work but might not have done well on a test, quiz or project and would like to boost his or her grade.

*****Please detach the bottom portion of this syllabus and submit in class*****

I have read all of the information contained within the course syllabus and understand what is required of me in order to achieve a passing grade within this class.

X _____
Student's Name -- Printed

X _____
Student's Signature

I have read all of the information contained within the course syllabus and understand what is required of my child in order to achieve a passing grade within this class.

X _____
Parent's Name -- Printed

X _____
Parent's Signature

